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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/781,970	02/18/2004	William James Griffin	50037.240US01	4441
27488 7590 08/20/2007 MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT) P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			EXAMINER ABDUL-ALI, OMAR R	
			ART UNIT 2178	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/781,970

Applicant(s)

GRIFFIN ET AL.

Examiner

Omar Abdul-Ali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

The following action is in response to the response filed June 4, 2007. Amended Claims 1-25 are pending and have been considered below.

1. Examiner Note: The previous rejections of Claims 1-20 have been withdrawn as necessitated by Applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 21 and 25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Poulsen (US 7,062,511).

Claim 21: Poulsen discloses a method and system for portal web site generation, comprising:

a. portal manager comprising an element database, the element database storing metadata(schema) associated with elements accessible from the portal (column 7, lines 56-65);

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b. a user interface in communication with the portal manager, the user interface displaying a navigational hierarchy of the elements accessible from the portal and displaying information associated with the elements when they are accessed from the portal, wherein the navigational hierarchy of the elements is arranged in accordance with metadata in the element database, and wherein the user interface allows the user to edit the metadata associated with the elements (column 9, lines 12-17/column 9, lines 63-67 to column 10, lines 1-2). Poulsen discloses a navigational hierarchy consisting of a home page and a set of tabbed portal web pages that appear on the home page, and displaying the content of the tabbed pages when the tabs are selected. The navigational hierarchy is arranged in accordance with schema data (metadata) in the database, and the schema data (metadata) may be edited by editing the preferences and characteristics of the portlets.

Claim 25: Poulsen discloses a method and system for portal web site generation, comprising:

a. portal manager further comprises security module configured to identify a user requesting access, and authenticate access to at least one of an element and metadata based on the identified user (page 11, paragraph 111).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKay (US 2003/0217111) in view of Poulsen (US 7,062,511).

Claim 1: McKay discloses a method and system for managing a portal, comprising:

a. selecting an element from a navigational hierarchy, the selected element being associated with a location accessible from the portal, the navigational hierarchy being identified with metadata in a database (page 12, paragraph 122/page 8, paragraph 96)

Poulsen also discloses selecting a tabbed web page from a home page, and displaying the web page (column 9, lines 12-17);

b. selecting an interaction to be performed on the selected element (page 12, paragraph 123);

c. retrieving metadata associated with the selected interaction and the selected element (page 8, paragraph 96).

d. accessing the location from the portal in response to selection of a feature associated with the interaction when the interaction does not correspond to an action (page 12, paragraph 123).

McKay does not explicitly disclose when the interaction corresponds to an action to modify the metadata, performing the action with the retrieved metadata and updating the metadata in the database based on the performed action. Poulsen discloses a similar method and system for managing a portal that further discloses using

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schema(metadata) to define the layout and other content including elements of the portal website and this data may be edited by editing the preference data stored in the schema, which also updates the schema (column 9, lines 44-62/column 8, lines 20-40). Particularly, Poulsen describes storing information such as particular stocks to track and a particular city to monitor for a weather portlet. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that if an interaction corresponds to an action to modify the metadata, performing the action with the retrieved metadata and updating the metadata in the database based on the performed action in McKay. One would have been motivated to modify the metadata for customization purposes.

Claim 2: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 1 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. the element is at least one of an area, a subarea, a listing, and intranet site, and an extranet site (page 12, paragraph 122).

Claim 3: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 1 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. the element comprises a listing, and wherein the listing is arranged to provide access to at least one of a link, a resource, and a page from the portal (page 12, paragraph 122).

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Claim 4: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in

Claim 3 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. the listing is arranged to provide access to at least one of the link, the resource, and the page external to the portal (page 12, paragraph 122).

Claim 5: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in

Claim 1 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. the feature is at least one of a link, a resource, and a page (page 12, paragraph 123).

Claim 6: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in

Claim 1 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. displaying the navigational hierarchy in accordance with the updated metadata (page 12, paragraph 122/page 8, paragraph 96).

Claim 7: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in

Claim 1 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. authorizing user access to the element in the navigational hierarchy (page 11, paragraph 111).

Claim 8: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in

Claim 7 above, and McKay further discloses:

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a. displaying the element in the navigational hierarchy that a user is authorized to access (page 12, paragraph 115).

Claim 9: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 7 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. inheriting user authorization to access the element from a parent element, wherein metadata identifies the parent element and the inherited user authorization (page 12, paragraph 122).

Claim 10: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 1 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. selecting the element and selecting the action is performed using a web browser (page 11, paragraph 110).

Claim 11: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 1 above, and McKay further discloses:

a. selecting the element and selecting the action is performed by a direct link provided in a uniform resource locator in a web browser (page 11, paragraph 111).

Claim 12: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 1 above, and Poulsen further discloses users may add additional elements (portlets) to their portal web site (column 6, lines 62-67 to column 7, lines 1-7).

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Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that additional elements could be added to the navigational hierarchy of the portal site in McKay. One would have been motivated to add additional elements to their portal site for customization purposes.

Claim 13: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 12 above, and Poulsen further discloses the portal web server may be configured such that portal web sites are generated at preset time intervals (column 7, lines 48-51). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that since Poulsen uses timing in the generation of the portal web sites, additional elements can be added according to time schedules. One would have been motivated to add the elements to the navigational hierarchy at a pre-assigned time in order to provide additional options at certain time periods of the day. For instance, for a financial website, some options may only be available during business hours, and an option may be provided exclusively during those business hours.

Claim 14: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for implementing an information portal for viewing information from disparate system's databases as in Claim 1 above, and Poulsen further discloses performing the action comprises removing elements (portlets) from the navigational hierarchy of the portal website (column 6, lines 62-67 to column 7, lines 1-7). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that elements could be removed from the navigational hierarchy of the portal site in McKay. One would have been motivated to remove elements for customization purposes.

Claim 15: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for implementing an information portal for viewing information from disparate system's databases as in Claim 1 above, and Poulsen further discloses the portal web server may be configured such that portal web sites are generated at preset time intervals (column 7, lines 48-51). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that since Poulsen uses timing in the generation of the portal web sites, additional elements can be removed according to time schedules. One would have been motivated to remove the elements from the navigational hierarchy at a pre-assigned time in order to remove additional options at certain time periods of the day. For instance, for a financial website, some options may only be available during business hours, and an option may be provided exclusively during those business hours. After business hours, this element would be removed from the navigational hierarchy.

Claim 16: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 1 above, and McKay further discloses:

- a. filtering the element (page 12, paragraph 123).

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Claim 17: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for managing a portal as in Claim 1 above, but neither reference explicitly discloses performing the action comprises storing a subset of the retrieved metadata in a cache. However, using a cache is common when storing data in order to provide quick access before storing the data in a permanent database. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store some of the metadata in the cache in McKay. One would have been motivated to store a subset of the retrieved metadata in the cache in order to eliminate some of the time required for regular memory access.

Claim 18: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for implementing an information portal for viewing information from disparate system's databases as in Claim 17 above, but neither reference explicitly discloses retrieving metadata comprises retrieving metadata associated with the element from the cache. However, using a cache is common when retrieving data in order to provide faster access than retrieving the data from main Random Access Memory (RAM) memory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to retrieve the metadata from a cache in McKay. One would have been motivated to retrieve the metadata from a cache in order to eliminate some of the time required for regular memory access.

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Claim 19: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for implementing an information portal for viewing information from disparate system's databases as in Claim 1 above, but neither reference explicitly discloses storing subareas and listings associated with a currently selected element in a cache. However, using a cache is common when storing data in order to provide quick access before storing the data in a permanent database. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store subareas and listings of a currently selected element in a cache in McKay. One would have been motivated to store this information in the cache in order to quickly retrieve this information by avoiding accessing the data from main RAM memory.

Claim 20: McKay and Poulsen disclose a method and system for implementing an information portal for viewing information from disparate system's databases as in Claim 19 above, but neither reference explicitly discloses retrieving the subareas and listings that a user is authorized to access from the cache. However, using a cache is common when retrieving data in order to provide faster access than retrieving the data from main Random Access Memory (RAM) memory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to retrieve the subareas and listings that a user is authorized to access from a cache in McKay. One would have been motivated to retrieve the data from a cache in order to eliminate some of the time required for regular memory access.

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6. Claims 22-24 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poulsen (US 7,062,511).

Claim 22: Poulsen discloses a method and system for portal web site generation as in Claim 21 above, but does not explicitly disclose the element database comprises an area database and a listing database, the area database storing metadata associated with areas accessible in the portal, and the listing database storing metadata associated with links accessible from the portal. However, Poulsen does disclose the portal database stores schema (metadata), which is responsible for rendering the portal web site (column 7, lines 56-65). Additionally, the examiner considers it immaterial as to which database stores the metadata for the portal, and that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the metadata could be stored in one or more databases. One would have been motivated to store the metadata in specific databases in order to easily locate and retrieve the metadata from each individual database.

Claim 23: Poulsen discloses a method and system for portal web site generation as in Claim 22 above, but does not explicitly disclose the portal manager further comprises an area cache and a listing cache, the area cache storing a subset of metadata retrieved from the area database, the listing cache storing a subset of metadata retrieved from the listing database. However, using a partitioned cache is common when storing data in order to provide quick access before storing the data in a

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permanent database. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store data in separate caches. One would have been motivated to partition the cache in order to easily store and retrieve data separately without affecting the rest of the data stored in the cache.

Claim 24: Poulsen discloses a method and system for portal web site generation as in Claim 23 above, but does not explicitly disclose that metadata associated with the element is retrieved from the area cache and the listing cache. However, using a partitioned cache is common when storing and retrieving data in order to provide quick access before storing the data in a permanent database. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store data in separate caches, and later retrieve the data from the cache when requested. One would have been motivated to retrieve the metadata from a partitioned cache in order to speed up the process of accessing the data since the address of the data is located separately from the rest of the data in the cache.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicants' arguments filed June 4, 2007 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

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Claim 1: Applicant's arguments with respect to Claim 1 are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection based on McKay (US 2003/0217111) in view of Poulsen (US 7,062,511).

Claim 21: Applicant argues that Poulsen does not disclose "a user interface in communication with the portal manager, the user interface displaying a navigational hierarchy of the elements accessible from the portal and displaying information associated with the elements when they are accessed from the portal, wherein the navigational hierarchy of the elements is arranged in accordance with metadata in the element database, and wherein the user interface allows the user to edit the metadata associated with the elements." Please see rejection above as applied to this argument.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar Abdul-Ali whose telephone number is 571-270-1694. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri(Alternate Fridays Off) 8:30 - 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OAA
8/07/2007


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